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interim study that was ongoing. It lasted throughout the entire summer and fall and it involved a great many people, and he and his staff are to be commended. I really can't add too much to what Senator Preister already told you about the committee amendment. The committee amendment does become the bill. So just disregard the green copy altogether and, basically, just to reiterate, the committee amendment sets up \$150,000 a year to go to the SERC to allocate then back to the emergency planning committees, and one-fourth of it would automatically be divided between all the local planning committees. The other three-fourths of the fund would be based on the number of facilities, highways, railroads, pipelines and other structures within the local emergency planning commission's jurisdiction. And as Senator Preister noted, it does terminate, this cash fund does terminate on July 1st of 2003. I would like to call your attention to the committee statement. If you look carefully at it, you'll see there is proponents listed and then there is a rehearing on the amendment listed. And I just want you to make...I want to make certain that you see we really turned the proponents and opponents around with the hearing on AM2003. As Senator Preister noted, there was not any opposition to this bill, and I think there is some issues there that we need to keep discussing and I know that Senator Preister is committed to doing that. But I think this will allow the LEPCs to take one more step forward in their organization and in their commitment to their communities. So with that, I would urge the adoption of the committee amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Discussion on the committee amendments, Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President. I rise in support of the committee amendments, which will become the bill. Essentially, they will be providing \$150,000 of what I view as seed money, and the reason I say seed money is because currently there is no funding mechanism for the LEPCs. They can hope to get some grants or donations, so they are out there kind of begging. But this would provide some money that they could utilize, and on one of the handouts that I gave you, there is a model annual budget. This would show you what that money would be spent for. As they are putting together these emergency plans to deal with hazardous material incidents, they can spend